

Rs. 9065 crore out of which Rs. 3381 has already been released to the states till date.

(b) to (e) The Framework for Implementation of NRHM envisages several initiatives to provide special facilities in the rural areas/places lacking in health amenities. The allocation for health sector is being substantially enhanced over the Mission period to facilitate architectural correction in the public health delivery system to improve the services available to the rural poor. The NRHM envisages selection of a trained female community health worker called Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) in each village in High Focus States to work as the link of community with health system. The NRHM also seeks to Strengthen the Public Health delivery system at all levels. The Sub-centre and PHCs are proposed to be revitalized through better human resource management, clear quality standards, better community support and united fund to enable local planning and action. The Sub-Centres are being strengthened with additional ANM, enhanced support for medicines and united funds. The PHCs are being made functional on 24X7 basis with additional Staff Nurses to provide emergency obstetric care. The CHCs are being upgraded to Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) in a phased manner. The IPHS define structural, personnel, equipment and management standards and have been prepared for various levels of health facilities. NRHM also seeks to strengthen service delivery by ensuring community ownership of health facilities. The Sub-Centres are envisaged to be under the management of the local Panchayat. The Patient Welfare Committees at various levels would ensure that the quality health care is available to the poor farmers and labourers in the rural areas.

Harassment of students in AIIMS

346. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of medical students, resident doctors and faculty members of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences are demanding a transparent and impartial enquiry into complaints of harassment belonging to reserved category; and

(b) if so, the response of Government thereto?

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THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Professor Sukha Deo Thorat, Chairman, University Grants Commission to look into the complaints on the alleged harassment of SC/ST students in All India Institute of Medical Sciences. The Committee has not yet submitted its report.

Rise of Respiratory Diseases due to Pollution

347. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi's pollution levels may have reportedly gone down, but cases of asthma especially among children continue to be on the rise;

(b) if so, the details thereof reported during the last two years, hospital-wise in Delhi;

(c) whether the aerated drinks, junk foods, fast foods, potato chips, ice-cream and some other items are adding the woes of the children and their parents;

(d) if so, what steps Government would take to ban such items in Delhi to save the young children from these clutches; and

(e) what steps Government are taking to improve the quality life of students especially Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Indian Council of Medical Research has reported that there is no direct evidence to suggest that air pollution by itself can be the cause of asthma. Allergens like pollen, house dust and certain food articles can however, trigger of asthma attacks. As asthma is not a notifiable disease, data relating to morbidity due to asthma is not maintained.

(c) to (e) Though there is a growing interest for processed food including junk food, aerated drinks, however the Government ensures quality standards of various food items including ice-cream, aerated drinks etc. through the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) rules.